

Roberta Manter
Fayette

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, members of the State and Local Government Committee,

My name is Roberta Manter, I live in Fayette, and I am asking you to vote L.D. 859 Ought Not to Pass. When I first heard about Ranked-choice Voting, I thought it made sense. I thought it would allow me to express a preference for a candidate who had little chance of winning, and still have my vote for my second choice count. But the more I learn about how it actually works, the more I dislike the idea. First, it will increase costs for municipalities. MMA has consistently objected to a number of bills that I have supported in the past because it would be an unfunded mandate, even if the cost to municipalities was minimal. Second, it is almost sure to delay the determination of who actually won, because the counting has to go through multiple stages. Third, it doesn't actually mean that any candidate got approval of the majority of voters, as claimed, only a majority of those who voted, and for many of those, the vote that got counted for them was not really the person they wanted, because that vote got thrown out. Fourth, if I vote only for my first choice candidate and that candidate is discarded, then my vote doesn't count at all, and with fewer votes actually being counted, the winning candidate can win with fewer votes. And fifth, having many choices on the ballot and then recombining votes for discarded candidates with votes for remaining candidates may result in someone getting elected even though only a small percentage of voters had that candidate as their first choice. They say that in most cases, having ranked choice voting doesn't alter the final outcome. Well, if that's the case, then let's go back to narrowing the field down and having each person vote for one candidate, and avoid all the extra time, expense, and controversy caused by ranked choice voting.